

# *Presidential Award*

## *General Community Service*

*Lee University*

Cleveland, Tennessee  
Dr. Charles Paul Conn, President

Lee University's dedication to social service is a mandatory part of the curriculum. The university was founded on the ideals of social justice, benevolence, and civic virtue.

Students completed 66,200 volunteer hours in community service during this past year. Many of them worked through Lee University's Crossover program, a student-led food reclamation and distribution program which partners with area grocers and retailers to feed the

disadvantaged in the community. They distributed over 192,000 pounds of food to those in need. Crossover also provided tutoring, job-preparation training, and agency referrals. Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, business students assisted 487 mid- to low-income individuals and families with their tax returns, securing refunds totaling over \$480,000. Another pioneering program, Lee University Developmental Inclusion Classroom (LUDIC), enabled university students to partner with local school districts to serve 23 young area students with autism-spectrum disorders. Last year, 160 Lee students served 4,182 hours at LUDIC, assisting with activities and services such as an autism camp, educational planning, and family support services.

Lee University's commitment to service involves every single one of its students, who must complete two service-embedded courses and 80 hours of service-learning as a graduation requirement. After graduation, students' volunteerism continues. Last year 71 percent of graduates signed the Lee University Graduation Service Pledge, indicating their understanding of its importance and affirming their commitment to the ideals of the University's service program as they move forward as global citizens.



# *Presidential Award*

## *General Community Service*

### *Ohio Wesleyan University*

Delaware, Ohio

Rock Jones, Ph.D., President

Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) students can best be described as dedicated. In the last academic year, 1,773 students donated more than 45,000 hours to community service projects including tutoring economically disadvantaged children; mentoring at-risk youth; building houses; repairing hurricane damage; serving in soup kitchens; advocating for social justice and human rights; cleaning up the environment; supporting fair trade; empowering women; fighting against human trafficking; and raising money for disaster relief, refugee relocation, disease research, micro-loans, and nonprofit organizations. They served missions and joined the Peace Corps. These students didn't stop there. They gave blood; hosted workshops; recycled waste; circulated petitions; provided translation; marched, walked, danced, ran, and fasted for a cause; participated in a hunger banquet and multiple canned food drives; and made a difference on campus, in the community, and around the globe.

The ripple effect of these contributions is nearly impossible to quantify. What is measurable are the \$28,000 raised by OWU's Greek community for philanthropic causes, the carloads of canned goods and toiletries that students donated to the local food pantry, and the tons of garbage they removed from local waterways and highways. In fact, the students earned recognition with the "Community Stewardship Award" and the "Keep Delaware County Beautiful" program for all of

their efforts. And the faculty and administration are also active role models for civic responsibility. They serve on boards, volunteer for causes, join students on spring break mission trips, and take a stand on local and global issues.

This level of dedication to community service is a cornerstone of Ohio Wesleyan University, which has been committed to education for leadership and service since its inception in 1842. Its passionate graduates take with them their learning and commitment to serve. They leave the university passionately committed and well-prepared to address the issues impacting our global community.



# *Presidential Award*

## *General Community Service*

### *The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

**Chapel Hill, North Carolina**  
**Holden Thorp, Chancellor**

**T**he University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill), the nation's first public school, has a long history of activism and community service. Through its teaching, research and public service, Carolina connects with people in the state and around the world in ways that improves lives and builds futures.

In the 2008-2009 school year, Carolina students contributed more than 1 million hours of service through meal packaging events, dance marathons benefiting the North Carolina Children's Hospital, and other projects involving more than 150 community partners. Many students gave up vacations from school through Alternative Break experiences in

which they traveled to help in a variety of destination communities. In addition, nearly 2,000 students contributed in nearby North Carolina communities through service-learning courses, internships, and fellowships.

UNC-Chapel Hill is committed to developing active citizens who not only volunteer but who also recognize policy issues. Students work side-by-side with domestic or global community partners to find solutions. The program Carolina Hunger Education and Activism Project (C.H.E.A.P.) is a perfect example. This student organization works to combat both local and global hunger by engaging students in education, activism, and awareness. C.H.E.A.P. recruited 1,500 volunteers for an annual meal-packaging event to provide meals in Nairobi, Kenya. They also organized a food waste demonstration on campus to promote awareness of food insecurity.

To support the many different interests of its students, the University offers several supportive offices and programs. The Campus Y is home to student activists and community advocates, the APPLES service-learning program provides opportunities for the campus community, and the Carolina Center for Public Service is home to student fellowships, grants, and faculty development opportunities. Through all of its offerings, both UNC-Chapel Hill's students and the global community benefit.



**THE UNIVERSITY**  
**of NORTH CAROLINA**  
**at CHAPEL HILL**





# *Presidential Award*

*Special Focus: Service to Youth From Disadvantaged Circumstances*

## *Emory & Henry College*

Emory, Virginia

Rosalind Reichard, Ph.D., President

Emory & Henry College views education and community service as the twin responsibilities of a liberal arts college. More than 84 percent of the college's students participated in service projects during 2009, demonstrating that every person can make a difference in the lives of others and their community.

Emory & Henry believes that *place* is an important factor in community service and this has shaped the institution's celebration of its rural roots through a collection of sustainable development projects. These projects have sought to improve people's lives in Southwest Virginia by helping to increase living standards with a focus on local history, nature, and art. By concentrating on investments in information technology, Emory & Henry enabled rural Fries, Virginia to transition from its former manufacturing-based economy to an economy based on cultural and outdoor recreational offerings. The town was able to make the change without sacrificing the positive amenities of small-town life.

This past year, 247 members of the Emory & Henry family also built a Habitat for Humanity house they called the "House of Hope." In just six weeks, volunteers donated almost 1,000 hours of service and raised nearly \$26,000 from the college community to construct the home.

Other service projects included tutoring and mentoring students through both the college's Highlands Project for Public Education and the Emory & Henry Tutoring Program. Academic service-learning also provided college students hands-on opportunities to learn and serve simultaneously. A recently launched graduate program provides leadership training in the areas of public service and nonprofit sustainability, and remains a focus for the future.

Community efforts will certainly continue to be a focus of Emory & Henry as it looks to expand opportunities to empower individuals and groups and generate solutions to social needs from within the community itself.



# *Presidential Award*

*Special Focus: Service to Youth From Disadvantaged Circumstances*

## *Raritan Valley Community College*

**Branchburg, New Jersey**

**Dr. Casey Crabill, President**

**R**aritan Valley Community College's (RVCC) mission is to create a community of learners who value intellectual achievement, scholarship, diversity of thought, leadership, and service to the community. The College provides its students a supportive climate to address significant social concerns.

One of RVCC's hallmark programs is service-learning, which enables students to receive academic credit for community service within all nine of the academic departments at the College. In 2009, 1,000 students at the College provided over 30,000 hours of service to local communities. The total time

students donated to numerous organizations and their clients over the year resulted in the economic equivalent of over \$600,000 in donated service.

Service-learning students volunteered at various organizations with at-risk middle and high school youth. They worked as tutors and assisted with ESL classes, bringing one-on-one academic assistance in all subject areas and, when possible, involving those students' parents.

At homeless shelters the College's students planned and delivered workshops on career and college planning. They also collaborated with staff at mental health and developmental agencies to improve learning for students with disabilities.

And they didn't stop there. Students addressed illiteracy in the community by offering reading programs for pre- and elementary school children.

Raritan Valley Community College is proud of its role as a civic leader and the hard work its students do to fulfill its mission of making positive change in the community. Through the combined work of the college, its students, and local businesses, the College is making a remarkable impact on the region it serves. Many of its graduates continue volunteering long after their service-learning projects end.



# *Presidential Award*

*Special Focus: Service to Youth From Disadvantaged Circumstances*

## *Willamette University*

**Salem, Oregon**

**M. Lee Pelton, President**

**W**illamette University's values of civic engagement and social responsibility extend into the classroom, across campus, throughout the community, and around the world. In 2009 Willamette students, faculty, and staff engaged in more than 66,000 service hours.

The tradition of service permeates campus culture as students build innovative, collaborative partnerships that serve important community needs while learning valuable lessons through direct experience. Service gives Willamette students valuable vocational insight and helps them recognize their responsibility in the broader world.

In the *Take a Break* program, students spend spring and winter breaks serving in communities across the country. They have helped New Orleans residents rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, painted houses on Native American reservations, and worked with Chicago youth living in poverty.

As part of Willamette's partnership with the Chemawa Indian School in Salem, about 30 Willamette students work with 150 Chemawa high school students weekly to foster shared social, cultural, and educational experiences. Undergraduates also assist migrant farm workers, work in homeless shelters, and restore native habitat, among many other activities. Law students contribute thousands of hours of legal assistance to Salem

residents through the Willamette Legal Clinic. MBA students assist local and regional businesses and nonprofits, and graduate education students teach children in local schools.

Students also tutor and mentor at Willamette Academy, a college access program for high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program is designed to help students become college bound by promoting critical thinking skills, community leadership, and a love of learning.

Faculty also contribute to more than 100 community projects, nonprofit organizations, and schools. In addition they provide critical advice and oversight for many of Willamette's service-learning programs. Willamette also continually ranks among the top small colleges and universities in the nation for producing Peace Corps volunteers; 290 alumni have served since the program's inception in 1961.



**WILLAMETTE  
UNIVERSITY**